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of cotton that has probably been quite unchanged from its pristine condition.

"It at once occurred to us that this race might prove a very valuable one for breeding purposes, inasmuch as it furnishes a new point of departure."

Dr. O. F. Cook's comment in the same number of *Science* is partly given below.

"Professor Britton's account of the conditions under which this primitive type of cotton grows would seem to establish beyond doubt that it is really a wild plant. The very small bolls and sparse lint would seem to preclude the idea that this cotton was introduced into the island for civilized agriculture. If not truly indigenous it must have been brought in aboriginal times, or by accident.

"The existence of wild cotton in Jamaica has been claimed by Macfayden and others, but the evidence has not been convincing. Macfayden described two species of cotton (*Gossypium jamaicense* and *G. oligospermum*) as native to Jamaica, but both are said to have yellow flowers and have been reckoned as forms of Sea Island cotton (*Gossypium barbadense*). White flowers are not known in any cottons of the Sea Island series. In the characters of the seeds and bolls Professor Britton's cotton closely resembles a type which grows wild on the Florida Keys."

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. J. M. Reade has been promoted from instructor to professor of botany at the University of Georgia.

Dr. Friedrich Hildebrand, professor of botany at Freiburg, recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his doctorate.

Mr. W. W. Eggleston is making studies and collections of *Crataegus* in Virginia and North Carolina.

Professor G. W. Wilson, of Upper Iowa University, held a research scholarship at the New York Botanical Garden during the past summer.

Professor F. S. Earle, recently director of the Estación Agro-

nómica Central of Cuba, has accepted an appointment as agricultural specialist of the Cuban-American Sugar Company.

Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Britton left New York on August 22 for another botanical visit to the island of Jamaica. They expect to return about September 30.

Recent journals announce the death of Dr. Hermann Karston, the Berlin botanist, aged ninety-two years, and also that of Professor Daguillon, assistant professor of botany at the Sorbonne.

Dr. P. A. Rydberg, of the New York Botanical Garden staff, spent two weeks in the latter part of August in collecting in the Roan Mountain region of North Carolina and Tennessee.

Dr. Roland M. Harper gave a course of botanical lectures in July and August at the Biltmore Forest School, in North Carolina. He has since been carrying on botanical field-work in Georgia and Alabama.

In the distribution of the Bonaparte fund for 1908 by the Paris Academy of Sciences, the sum of 2,000 francs has been awarded to L. Blaringhem to enable him to continue his studies on the variation of species and the experimental methods of creating new species of plants.

The United States Forest Service has arranged for six sub-offices, to be situated in six cities which are centers of interest in forestry. Two of the cities selected are San Francisco and Denver, and one will probably be Portland; it is expected that offices will be opened in the states of Montana and Utah.

Fred Jay Seaver, M.Sc., assistant professor of botany in the North Dakota Agricultural College, has been appointed director of the laboratories of the New York Botanical Garden, succeeding Dr. C. Stuart Gager, who has accepted the professorship of botany in the University of Missouri. Mr. Seaver held the fellowship in botany in Columbia University during the year 1906-7 and was formerly professor of biology in the Iowa Wesleyan University.